白の聖国物語 第四十六回
原作：白沢浅玄　漫画：ホニまーゆ

THIS MAN IS PAUL HUNT, A PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHER FROM THE WESTERN PROVINCIAL CITY OF HARKEN.
SO THAT'S THE REGENT...

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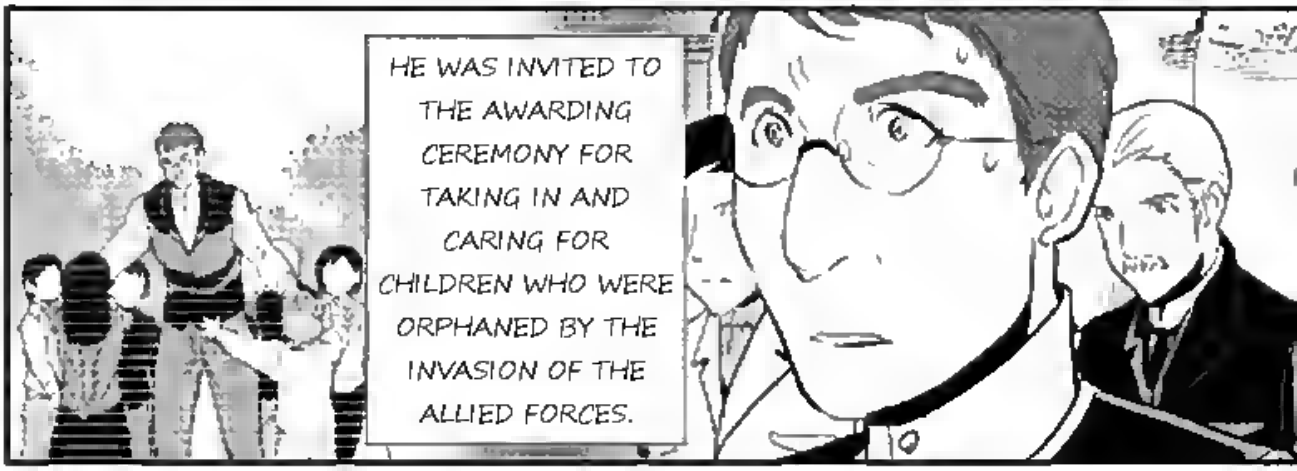
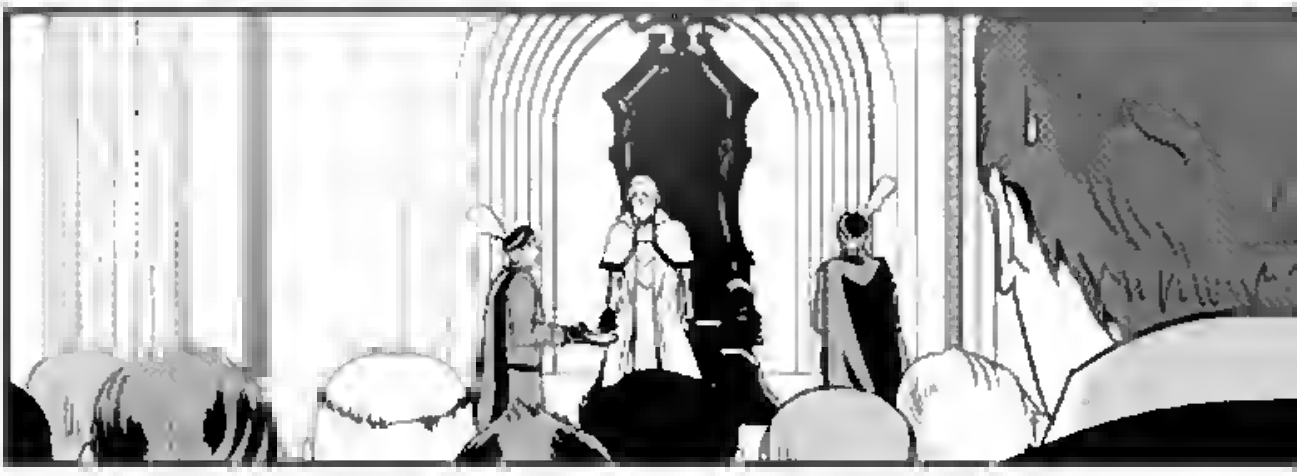

HE WAS INVITED TO THE AWARDING CEREMONY FOR TAKING IN AND CARING FOR CHILDREN WHO WERE ORPHANED BY THE INVASION OF THE ALLIED FORCES.



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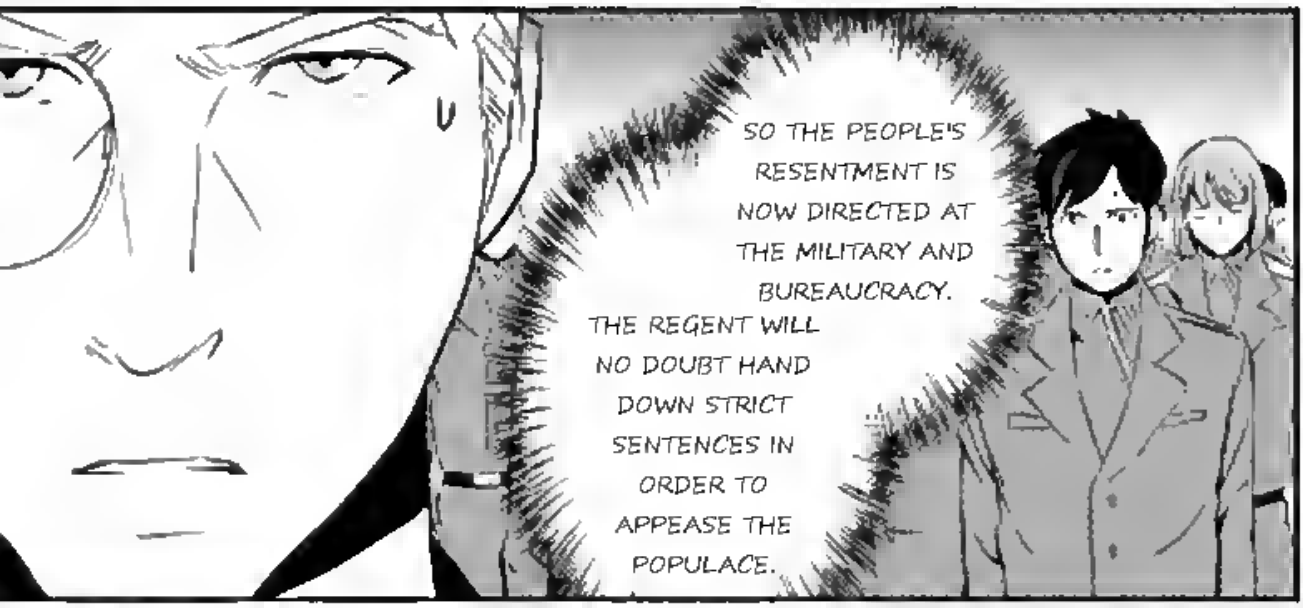
シーン…
I STICK OUT LIKE A SORE THUMB... I PICKED OUT MY BEST OUTFIT AND YET I STILL LOOK WORSE THAN THE SERVANTS OF THE NOBLES...
JUST GET IT ALL OVER WITH.
I WELCOME EVERYONE HERE, IT MUST HAVE BEEN QUITE LABORIOUS FOR ALL OF YOU TO ASSEMBLE HERE TODAY.

HIS HIGHNESS WILL HEREBY BEGIN AWARDING MEDALS.
COME FORTH WHEN YOUR NAME IS CALLED!
PAUL HUNT!
THE IDEA OF CONFERRING HONORS ONTO CIVILIANS BEFORE ANY OF THE NOBLES OR MILITARY PERSONNEL
YES!
WAS LECTIVAL'S WAY OF SHOWING CONSIDERATION TOWARDS THE PEOPLE WHO HAD LOST LOVED ONES IN THE BATTLE TO RETAKE THE CAPITAL.
OH, I'VE DONE IT NOW...

THE AWARDING CEREMONY IS HEREBY OVER!
THIS WAS A MIXED BLESSING FOR THE TOWNSFOLK.
I'LL NEED TO TEACH THE CHILDREN NOT TO BECOME LIKE THE REGENT WHEN THEY GROW UP...
PERHAPS THE REGENT FOUND IT FUN TO PREPARE SUCH A FORMAL EVENT AND PRIORITIZE THE PEOPLE...
HAAH...
I'VE LEARNED JUST HOW FORTUNATE I AM TO BE JUST ANOTHER FIGURE AMONG THE FACELESS MASSES...
AND THUS THE AWARDING CEREMONY FOR THE COMMONERS ENDED.
『ANYWAYS, THE REGENT'S EMOTIONLESS GAZE AFTER I FELL WAS AGONIZING...
IT MUST BE TOUGH TO BE THE REGENT...

IT WAS OBVIOUSLY BASED IN THE FEAR OF THE LORDS, MILITARY PERSONNEL, AND BUREAUCRATS WHO HAD LINED UP WAITING FOR THE REGENT TO RETURN.
AFTER THE CEREMONY ENDED AND THE CIVILIANS AND THE REGENT LEFT THE HALL, A STRANGE FEELING OF TENSION REMAINED.
THE AIR IS SO HEAVY...
PARLIAMENT MEMBER LORD CAVENDISH
IN ANY CASE, THE MAIN WORRY IS HAVING YOUR BLUNDERS SEEN AS THE ACTIONS OF A REBEL.
EVERYONE HERE KNOWS THAT THE REGENT WILL FIND FAULT WITH A NUMBER OF US FOR THE RECENT CIVIL WAR.
WHILE I HAVE HEARD THAT THE REGENT IS FAIR,

EVEN NOW, THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE FURIOUS ABOUT ALL THAT THEY'VE LOST...
IT'S LIKELY HE WILL BE STERN WITH THOSE THAT RUINED THE COUNTRY.
THE KING PASSED AWAY AND THE NOBLES THAT SUPPORTED HIM WERE SUPPRESSED BY THE REGENT.


SO THE PEOPLE'S RESENTMENT IS NOW DIRECTED AT THE MILITARY AND BUREAUCRACY.
THE REGENT WILL NO DOUBT HAND DOWN STRICT SENTENCES IN ORDER TO APPEASE THE POPULACE.

AND THE BUREAUCRATS WERE MORE INTERESTED IN MAINTAINING THE STATUS QUO THAN THE HURT CITIZENS AND RUINED LANDS.
TO BE FAIR, THE MILITARY DID NOTHING WHEN FOREIGN ARMIES MARCHED ON OUR CAPITAL

HIS HIGHNESS THE REGENT
AND THE ARCH-BISHOP
HAVE ENTERED!
!?

THE ARCHBISHOP?
THE TEMPLE HAS ALWAYS STAYED OUT OF POLITICAL MATTERS!
RAISE YOUR HEADS.
WHY IS SHE HERE?

ARCHBISHOP MILEIDIA HAS SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT THE REIGNING KING FIRST.
THE TEMPLE OF THE FOUR WORLDS DOES NOT RECOGNIZE THE ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE KING TOWARDS THE PEOPLE AS BEFITTING A KING.
THERE-FORE

NOR WILL WE APPROVE OF ANY ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE MAN WHO LED THE NATION WITHOUT THE AUTHORITY TO DO SO.
THE TEMPLE WILL NOT RECOGNIZE THE KING AS THE RULER OF THE KINGDOM
I BELIEVE YOU CAN ALL AGREE WITH OUR DECISION.

HIS HIGHNESS THE REGENT HAS PROPOSED THAT
THE RULING KING BE REMOVED FROM THE ROYAL FAMILY
THUS
AND HAVE ALL RECORDS OF HIS NAME PURGED BY THE TEMPLE.
THE TEMPLE HAS DECIDED TO ACCEPT THIS PROPOSAL.

THE RULING KING'S NAME WILL BE FORGOTTEN AND EVEN ERASED FROM THE KINGDOM'S RECORDS FOR SO LONG AS THE KINGDOM EXISTS. THIS IS AN INCREDIBLY SERIOUS PUNISHMENT!
OH MY...
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BUT GIVEN THE ANGER OF THE POPULACE, I DOUBT ANYONE HERE WILL OBJECT TO THIS.
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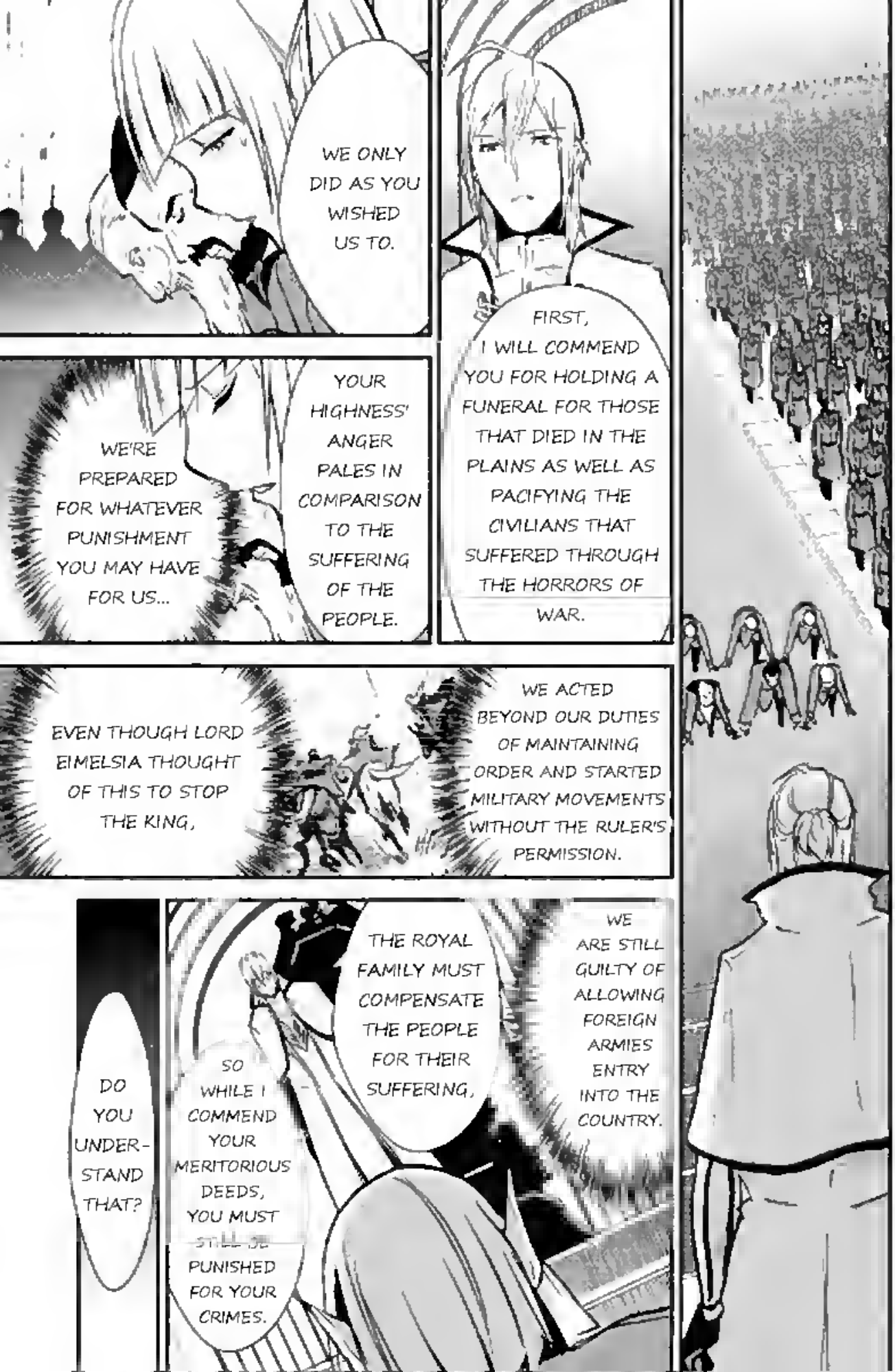
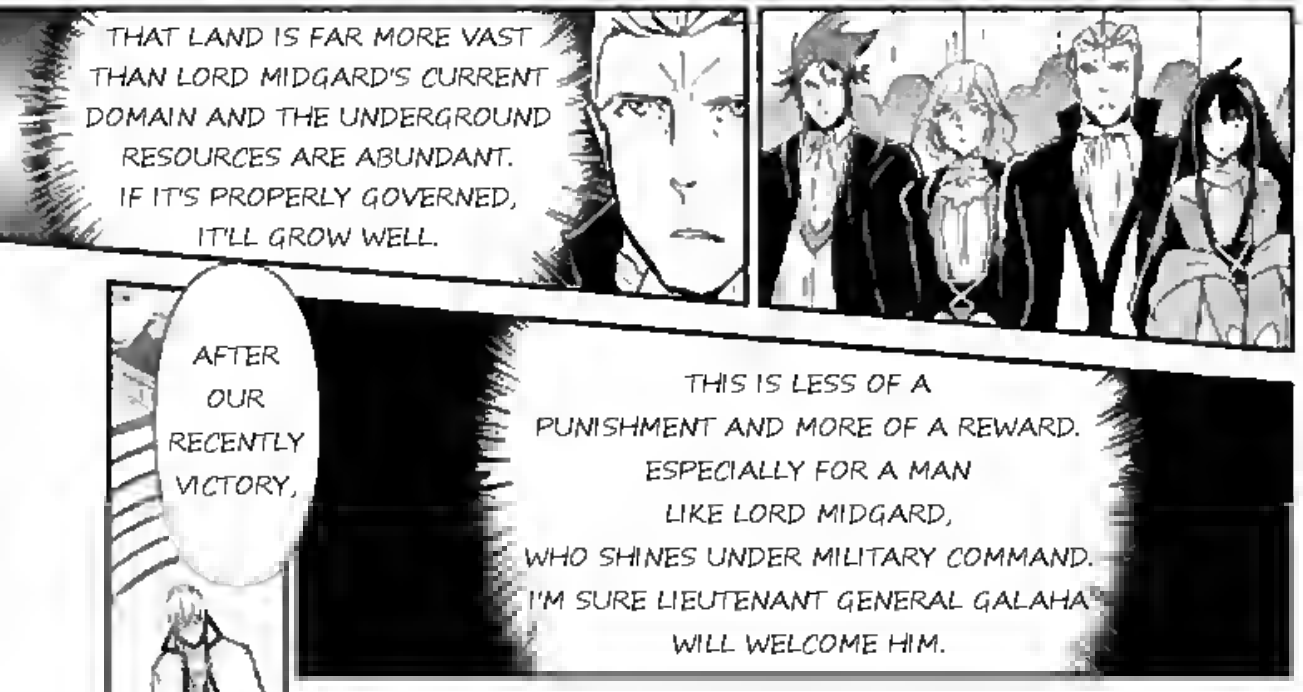
ARE THERE ANY OBJEC-TIONS?
FULLY SUPPORTS THE PUNISHMENTS THAT WILL BE PASSED DOWN.
I ALSO HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND THAT THE TEMPLE

LORDS MIDGARD, ASTORIA, AND EIMELSIA
WELL THEN,
AS YOU WISH!
STEP FORTH.
YES!
AS WELL AS THOSE THAT SERVE THEM WILL RECEIVE THEIR SENTENCES.


WE ONLY DID AS YOU WISHED US TO.
FIRST, I WILL COMMEND YOU FOR HOLDING A FUNERAL FOR THOSE THAT DIED IN THE PLAINS AS WELL AS PACIFYING THE CIVILIANS THAT SUFFERED THROUGH THE HORRORS OF WAR.
YOUR HIGHNESS' ANGER PALES IN COMPARISON TO THE SUFFERING OF THE PEOPLE.
WE'RE PREPARED FOR WHATEVER PUNISHMENT YOU MAY HAVE FOR US...
WE ACTED BEYOND OUR DUTIES OF MAINTAINING ORDER AND STARTED MILITARY MOVEMENTS WITHOUT THE RULER'S PERMISSION.
EVEN THOUGH LORD EIMELSIA THOUGHT OF THIS TO STOP THE KING,
WE ARE STILL GUILTY OF ALLOWING FOREIGN ARMIES ENTRY INTO THE COUNTRY.
THE ROYAL FAMILY MUST COMPENSATE THE PEOPLE FOR THEIR SUFFERING,
SO WHILE I COMMEND YOUR MERITORIOUS DEEDS, YOU MUST STILL BE PUNISHED FOR YOUR CRIMES.
DO YOU UNDER-STAND THAT?

LORD ALBRECHT MIDGARD WILL BE FIRST.
IN THAT CASE,
MM.
YES.
YES.

AND YOU WILL LEFT IN CHARGE OF THE LAND TAKEN FROM THE EMPIRE --EXCLUDING THE ROYAL TERRITORY OF WILMAGS-- THAT WILL BECOME THE NORTWENZEL MARCH.
YOU WILL FORFEIT YOUR CURRENT PEERAGE, GIVE 10% OF YOUR FORTUNE TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION, FORFEIT THE MARCH


THAT LAND IS FAR MORE VAST THAN LORD MIDGARD'S CURRENT DOMAIN AND THE UNDERGROUND RESOURCES ARE ABUNDANT. IF IT'S PROPERLY GOVERNED, IT'LL GROW WELL.
AFTER OUR RECENTLY VICTORY,
THIS IS LESS OF A PUNISHMENT AND MORE OF A REWARD. ESPECIALLY FOR A MAN LIKE LORD MIDGARD, WHO SHINES UNDER MILITARY COMMAND. I'M SURE LIEUTENANT GENERAL GALAHA WILL WELCOME HIM.

ON TOP OF THIS, I WILL LEAVE YOU IN COMMAND OF A NEWLY FORMED NORTHERN BORDER DEFENSE FORCE.
THE EMPIRE WILL FIGHT EVEN MORE FIERCELY AND YOU CAN EXPECT TO HAVE TO FACE THEM. YOU WILL ALSO NEED TO PACIFY THE FORMER IMPERIAL CITIZENS THAT LIVE THERE.

RATHER THAN SHUTTING ME AWAY SOMEWHERE AFTER LOSING FAITH IN ME,
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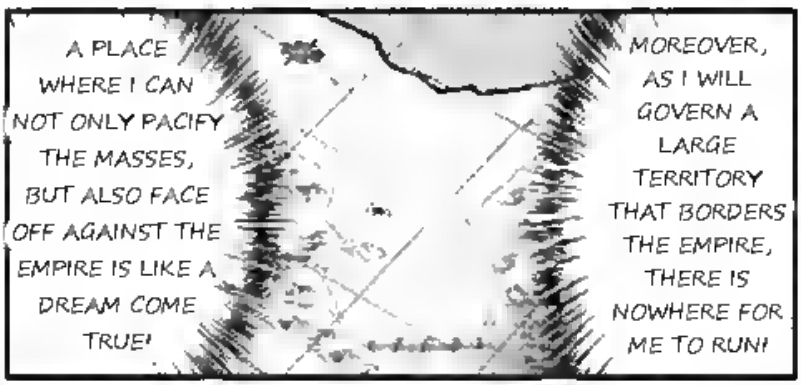
THIS IS A BLESSING OF A CURSE!


A PLACE WHERE I CAN NOT ONLY PACIFY THE MASSES, BUT ALSO FACE OFF AGAINST THE EMPIRE IS LIKE A DREAM COME TRUE!
MOREOVER, AS I WILL GOVERN A LARGE TERRITORY THAT BORDERS THE EMPIRE, THERE IS NOWHERE FOR ME TO RUN!

AND BEING IN COMMAND OF THE DEFENSE FORCE BASED IN WILMAGS MEANS THAT I MUST

PREPARE BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY FOR THE UPCOMING WAR. I WILL BE SURE TO PROPERLY RESPOND TO YOUR TRUST IN ME, YOUR HIGHNESS!

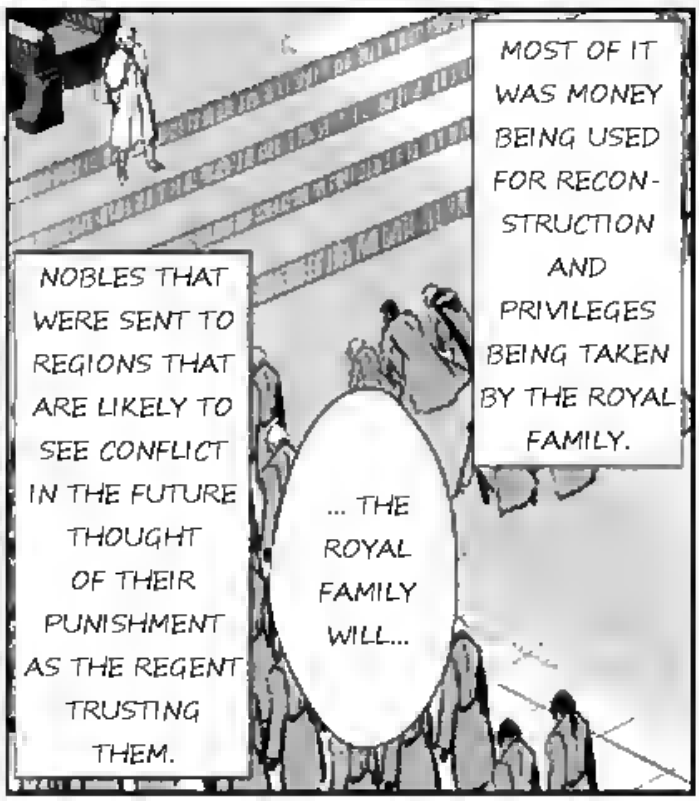
THE REGENT IS GRANTING MY WISH OF BEING ALLOWED TO DEFEND OUR COUNTRY!
YES!

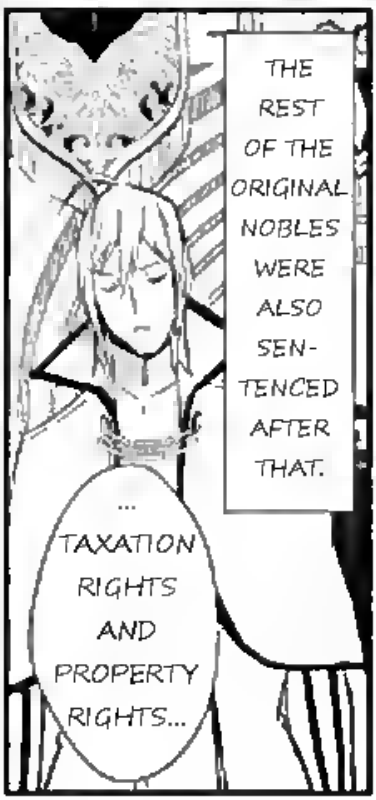
10% OF YOUR FORTUNE WILL GO TOWARDS RECONSTRUCTION, AND YOU WILL TRANSFER YOUR RIGHT TO COLLECT TAXES AND PROPERTY RIGHTS TO A MAGISTRATE DISPATCHED BY THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT FOR 3 YEARS.
LORD TATIANA ASTORIA,
YOU WILL ALSO SERVE INDEFINITELY AS A SPECIAL INFORMATION ADVISOR.
TRANSFERRING TAXATION RIGHTS TO A MAGISTRATE MEANS THAT THE ROYAL FAMILY WILL DIRECTLY CONTROL MY FAMILY'S FUNDS,
YES!
WHICH WOULD MEAN... NOTHING IS GOING TO CHANGE...
BUT SINCE WE'VE BEEN A FAMILY OF SOLDIERS WITH LITTLE TALENT FOR ADMINISTRATION, WE'VE ALWAYS LEFT THAT MATTER TO A MAGISTRATE,

IS THIS HIS WAY OF TELLING US TO RESPOND TO HIS EXPECTATIONS?
SO THEN, HIS HIGHNESS STILL TRUSTS US TO DEFEND THE KINGDOM.

YOUR HIGHNESS!

NOW...


NOBLES THAT WERE SENT TO REGIONS THAT ARE LIKELY TO SEE CONFLICT IN THE FUTURE THOUGHT OF THEIR PUNISHMENT AS THE REGENT TRUSTING THEM.
... THE ROYAL FAMILY WILL...
MOST OF IT WAS MONEY BEING USED FOR RECON-STRUCTION AND PRIVILEGES BEING TAKEN BY THE ROYAL FAMILY.


... TAXATION RIGHTS AND PROPERTY RIGHTS...
THE REST OF THE ORIGINAL NOBLES WERE ALSO SEN-TENCED AFTER THAT.

LORD HEIDEL EIMELSIA.
YES.
YOUR ENTIRE FORTUNE,
YOU WILL FORFEIT YOUR LAND,
AND
FORFEIT YOUR PEERAGE,
BE BANISHED FROM PUBLIC OFFICE,
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BE EXECUTED
ALONGSIDE ALL RELATIVES WITHIN FIVE DEGREES OF KINSHIP.